

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST, BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL ACTION, DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
MISSIONS BUILDING 322 DOWNEY AVENUE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

PRICE: \$1.00 PER YEAR INCLUDES SOCIAL ACTION RESEARCH BULLETIN

FEBRUARY, 1938

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD REPORTS ON 890,000 CASES

The Social Security Board reported 890,000 cases of federal-state aid to the aged, needy blind and dependent children handled in the period November 1, 1936 -- June 30, 1937.

For the period old-age assistance was paid to 469,000 persons, of whom 100 were entirely without other sources of income. About 90,000 had slight income from wages, rents or pensions, but not enough to disqualify for the grants. Of the total number 333,000 lived in homes where no public aid was received. About 100 lived in homes where another member of the family also received old age assistance. The Board lists three important facts revealed by the figures: spread lack of income, the high proportion of cases in which federal old age assistance is the only form of public aid being granted, and the significant extent to which federal old age assistance is taking obligations formerly borne by other agencies. The average grant for old persons living alone was \$20 per month and \$17 for those living with relatives.

Aid was extended to 163,300 dependent children, of whom 142,000 were white and 19,000 colored. In an overwhelming number of cases dependency was the result of disruption of the family, for which death was the most frequent cause. The median payment received was about \$20 per month.

Aid was given to 9,400 needy blind, of whom more than one-third were past 65. Of 1,111 between 16 and 45 to whom aid was given, only 125 were employed. Less than 300 were receiving any form of education. Monthly payments ranged from \$84, half being less than \$21 and three-fourths less than \$30.

IS PAPAL POLICY CHANGING?

That the Vatican is coming to the conclusion that it was too hasty in making terms with the dictators and that a more friendly understanding with communists and other liberals is within the realm of possibility, is the gist of an article entitled "Has the Pope Joined the Front Populaire?" in the February 1938 issue of Common Sense, written by its European correspondent, W. W. Riley.

Improbable as it may seem in the light of historic papal policy, Mr. Riley presents some strong evidence to support his hypothesis. The Pope has been greatly disturbed by the massacre of Basque Catholics by Franco, by Hitler's persecution of German Catholics, and by the increasing economic difficulties of the dictators. Also, he has been under increasing pressure from liberal Catholic opinion in France and the United States, Cardinal Muenster's irate denunciation of Hitler had reverberations throughout the entire Catholic church. Leon Blum suppressed the Royalist Croix de Feu (Cross of Fire) and now its leader, Colonel de la Rocque is revealed as having been subsidized by government funds by Tardieu, Rightist premier. Premature discovery of the plot of Les Cagoulards (The Hooded Ones) to overthrow the government and capture of their hidden arms has further served to demoralize the reactionary groups in France and to strengthen the liberals. Thus, it is believed, the Pope is being led by painful stages to the conclusion that he blundered in committing the Church to the fortunes of the fascist dictators. Credence is given to these suppositions by Mussolini's recent outburst against 'vacillating Christians', with whom he threatens to settle one day.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)



39,700 TRAFFIC DEATH TOLL IN 1937

According to this writer, the Pope's away from fascism will probably the line of receding somewhat from strong anti-Communist stand which Vatican has heretofore held and of tting Catholics to work hand-in-with liberals for certain object-providing guarantees are given religious liberty will be protect- As if to corroborate this state-

French Communists have recently ed a policy of "A more friendly to Catholics". The Christmas mes- of Cardinal Verdier, liberal arch- p of Paris, is interpreted as a site, if veiled, offer of a change tholic policy toward Communists in rn for such guarantees of religious dom. Already the Right wing of the ch has raised its protest through Archibishop of Lyons. However, the s solemn denunciation of the Third in his Christmas address to the ege of Cardinals is regarded as ing perfectly into the picture ed by Cardinal Verdier. The Pope's aration "...our warning (to Germany re the world could not be more sol- sor explicit" is interpreted as a r threat of possible change in Ro- Catholic policy toward authoritarian-states.

At the opening of the Congress of French Communist party on December Maurice Thomez replied to Cardinal tier, declaring the Catholic workers Communist workers can collaborate the protection of both and in or- zing the struggle against fascism, asserting that while Communists remain secular and atheistic, no gious discussion should be permit- between themselves and the Catholic ers.

he utterances of both groups are l sufficiently vague to leave each to pursue whatever line of action lopments may hereafter dictate, but Riley declares that only a recon- ation between Hitler and the Pope sudden swing of the Communists to revolutionary Marxism can pre- the consummation of this under- ding.

* * *

lans for the Disciple Conference social Action - May 3, 4, 1938 - at ana University are progressing. A- the leaders will be: Howard Kester F. Ernest Johnson, and Dr. Roswell arnes.

Traffic deaths in the United States reached a new high figure in 1937 with 39,700 fatal street accidents, the Na- tional Safety Council revealed on Feb- ruary 1. This represents a four per- cent increase over 1936, when 38,089 were killed, according to revised figures. That the death toll for 1937 was not larger is due to the fact that the months of November and December record sharp decreases over the preceding months. The total number of injured was 9,775,000, of whom 375,000 were listed as permanently disabled. The Council placed the total monetary cost of the nation's accident bill at \$3,700,000,- 000, distributed as follows: loss in wages and cost of medical service, \$2- 550,000,000, property damage in traffic mishaps, \$870,000,000, fire losses in accidents, \$280,000,000. One encourag- ing factor in the situation is the 13% decline in the number of fatal accidents to children under 15 years of age from 16,200 in 1936 to 15,000 in 1937. There was also a slightly favorable trend discernible in the ratio of fatal acci- dents to automobile mileage. The 1937 fatality rate was 15.9 per 100,000,000 miles of travel, as against a rate of 16.6 in 1936. On the other hand, the fatality rate per 100,000 population (a more accurate index to the actual hazards run by individuals in traffic) rose from 29.7 in 1936 to 30.7 in 1937.

Press dispatches carrying the figures of the Council's preliminary report make no mention of the liquor factor in traf- fic fatalities. Reports in past years have placed the number of liquor-caused traffic fatalities at about six to eight per cent. The National Safety Council has followed the custom of at- tributing accidents to such causes as 'bad driving practices', 'driving on wrong side of the road', 'failure to grant right-of-way', 'running off the road', etc., any one of which may have been caused by lack of control of self and care due to drink. Dr. Heisey of Minneapolis, from his study of fatal accidents occurring at and near Union- town, Pa., estimates that 75 per cent of all fatal traffic accidents are due to drink.

* * *

Is your state legislature meeting this year? Has it ratified the Child Labor Amendment? Write your representative concerning the matter.

(continued from page 1)



2024-05-20
WAGES, HOURS AND ESTIMATED ANNUAL WAGES IN INDUSTRY

in February 1937

From Monthly Labor Review, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C., May, 1937

	<u>Av. hourly wages cents</u>	<u>Av. weekly wages</u>	<u>Av. hours per week</u>	<u>*Estimated av. yearly wages</u>
Manufacturing industries	60.2	\$24.73	40.4	\$1,285.96
Mobiles and Steel	81.7	31.48	38.8	1,636.96
Textile manufacturing	67.1	28.71	42.3	1,492.92
Leather and their products	64.3	27.50	42.6	1,430.00
Shirts and collars	47.7	18.17	38.7	944.84
Cotton goods	37.3	13.61	36.4	707.72
Carpets and rugs	39.0	15.22	39.0	791.44
Manufacturing industries	58.0	23.29	40.1	1,211.08
Anthracite coal	79.4	22.66	28.3	1,178.32
Bituminous coal	79.7	24.65	31.4	1,281.80
Public utilities				
Telephone and telegraph	80.4	29.44	37.9	1,530.88
Electric light, power and mfrd gas	81.6	32.90	40.5	1,710.80
Wholesale trade	67.2	28.68	42.6	1,491.36
Retail	52.7	21.31	43.8	1,108.12
Laundries (See Note)	37.7	16.20	42.9	842.40

*Based on 52 weeks work per year.

NOTE: The annual wages of women workers in laundries, where data on annual earnings of women could be obtained, ranged from \$267 in Charleston, S.C., to \$634 in Boston, Mass. In 13 of the 18 cities surveyed their annual earnings were less than \$500, according to a recent study by the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor. The reader is also referred to Consider the Laundry Worker, a study of wages, hours and conditions of labor in power laundries in and around New York City, made by the League of Women Shoppers, Inc. 220 Fifth Avenue, New York City, price ten cents.

WAGES, HOURS AND WEEKLY EARNINGS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

September, 1937

	<u>Hours of work</u>	<u>Hourly rates in cents</u>	<u>Weekly earnings</u>
Baking	43.0	61.0	\$25.90
Wages	40.0	83.0	33.25
Canning and preserving	37.0	44.0	15.75
Stationery	41.0	47.0	18.80
Cream	45.5	59.0	27.15
Packing	46.5	60.0	27.85
Sugar	41.0	69.0	28.35
Refining, cane	44.5	60.0	26.00
	36.0	69.0	24.95

(continued from page 1)



our of the nine "Scottsboro Boys" been freed after six and a half years in prison.

he United States Supreme Court held unconstitutional an old Georgia insur-
nction act and thus freed Angelo Hern-
from a chain-gang sentence given
for leading a group of unemployed
Atlanta in 1931.

colored school teachers in Maryland
the same pay as white teachers.

rome Holland of Cornell was named
in All-American football team in
the first Negro to be named since
Robeson won that honor in 1918.

lliam Hastie was appointed judge
the U.S. District Court in the Ver-
- Islands for a four year term at a
ay of \$10,000 per year.

elve thousand sleeping car porters
granted a pay increase of \$12 per
through the efforts of the Broth-
- ers of Sleeping Car Porters.

erfolk-Portsmouth (Va.) Metho-
- Ministers' Association in December
voted unanimously to admit Negro
- odist ministers to membership.

en the exclusive William Penn
in Pittsburgh refused to admit
Negro delegates to the People's
- ess for Democracy and Peace in
- ber 1937, nearly 50 white delega-
- ho had already registered with-
A crowd of 400 delegates, most
- en white, picketed the hotel.

December 18, 1937 the Missouri
- me Court ordered that Negroes must
- mpaneled for jury service in all
- es of the State.

Arkansas a judge called a jury
up wholly of Negroes to try a case
en two Negroes.

ss Augusta Savage, director of the
- m Community Art Center, has been
- ssigned by the New York World's
- board to do a sculpture group show-
- he Negro's gift to American music.

xtly-two white colleges in the
- are giving courses on interra-
- relations; 49 others are giving
- ed courses.

Undaunted by an adverse House vote
of 188 to 209, the forces in support of
the Ludlow Resolution have announced
that the fight for its enactment will
be continued and that it will be made
an issue in the primary this fall.
Speaking over the Columbia Broadcasting
system on January 14th Representative
Hamilton Fish of New York condemned Ad-
ministration intervention which com-
pelled 55 members of the House who signed
the Discharge Petition to reverse them-
selves and vote to refuse consideration
of the measure. Had these 55 stood firm
the Resolution would have been subject
to discussion and would have been within
striking distance of the two-thirds
majority necessary for its passage and
submission to the States for ratifica-
tion as an amendment to the Constitu-
tion. It is freely charged that save
for the opposition of the President and
the so-called Big Navy group the mea-
sure would have been approved by an over-
whelming vote. The volume of sponta-
neous mail received by members of
Congress urging support of the measure
was enormous. This sentiment was sup-
ported by 70% favorable report by the
Institute of Public Opinion poll.

Defeat of the Ludlow Resolution as-
sumes tremendous importance in view of
the efforts of the so-called 'Big Navy'
bloc to stampede the country into the
biggest peacetime armament program in
our history. All of the familiar prop-
aganda devices are being resorted to
without even the effort to disguise the
purpose. First, American newspapers
publish dispatches that Italy is build-
ing warships of far greater tonnage
than allowed by existing treaties. This
sets Great Britain and France by the
ears. Then Italy publishes dispatches
saying that Japan is building battleships
of 43,000 tons or larger. This
sets the navy group in the United
States by the ears. Then the United
States, France and Great Britain for-
mally demand that Japan disclose whether
or not she is building such ships.
This sets Japanese Jingoists by the
ears. By the time the series of stor-
ies are proved to be nothing but myths
the big military appropriations have
been made and the purpose is accom-
plished. Senator Nye has publicly ex-
posed the 'racket' but it still goes
on. A new variation is the vulnerabil-
ity of Hawaii, which is now having a
popular run in the magazines.

(continued from page 1)

